

Kreisel

February 5, 1980

Prof. G. Kreisel, F.R.S.
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Dear Kreisel,

This general reader enjoyed the latest Gödel installment, even though some parts were a little above my head. As to molybdenum, Leslie tells me that the picture is not completely clear. It is certainly rather rare in the solid crust of the earth but reasonably abundant in the present ocean. However Leslie claims that it was probably rare in the prebiotic ocean, since it would have been present as the sulphide and therefore very insoluble. In any case I feel the evidence is, at best, flimsy, so Directed Panspermia is really just as brash as Göbel's view that the chance of prebiotic evolution was vanishingly small. However I don't think he had much of a grasp of biology since although general principles, such as Natural Selection, are important in biology, precisely because of this specific details are also very important. In this it is quite different from fundamental physics. Physics is the same everywhere in the universe but biological systems elsewhere, if they exist, could be different from ours in important particulars.

We expect to be in Stanford (for a meeting on March 27 and 28) from March 25 to March 30. Will you be there then? It would be nice to see you. Roger Kornberg (who is anxious to meet you) will effectively be our host. Perhaps you could get in touch with him and arrange something. I also hope you will pay us a visit here but perhaps we could discuss this in March.

F. H. C. Crick

FHCC/bml